

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

OLSON, R. EARL. 1979. *Sceloporus merriami*.

***Sceloporus merriami* Stejneger**
Canyon lizard

Sceloporus merriami Stejneger, 1904:17. Type-locality, "East Painted Cave, near mouth of Pecos River [Val Verde County], Texas." Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 33039, adult male, collected by W. Lloyd on 2 September 1890 (examined by author).

• **CONTENT.** Four subspecies are recognized: *annulatus*, *australis*, *longipunctatus*, and *merriami*.

• **DEFINITION.** *Sceloporus merriami* is a small (45–60 mm snout-vent length) sceloporine lizard with granular lateral scales, a rudimentary gular fold, and lacking a postfemoral dermal pocket. The dorsum is light to dark brown with paravertebral rows of dark spots, 7 to 10 in each row. Males have the throat marked with light blue to black transverse bars, or a central patch.

• **DESCRIPTIONS.** *Sceloporus merriami* has been reviewed most recently by Olson (1973), who described variation in external characters. Additional descriptions of various subspecies are as follows: *annulatus*—Smith (1937, 1939, 1946), Brown (1950), Minton (1959); *australis*—Williams, Smith, and Chrapliwy (1960); *longipunctatus*—Milstead (1953), Olson (1973); *merriami*—Stejneger (1904), Smith (1937, 1939, 1946), Brown (1950), Chaney and Gordon (1954), and Minton (1959).

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Diagrams of dorsal and ventral patterns of all subspecies are in Olson (1973). Photographs of *S. m. annulatus* are in Smith (1939, 1946), and of *S. m. merriami* in Wright and Wright (1927), and Smith (1946).

• **DISTRIBUTION.** The range is from extreme western Edwards and Crockett counties westward along the Rio Grande to Shafter, Presidio County, Texas, and southward into Mexico, including the northern Rio Conchos drainage, to San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila, and eastward to Jaral, Coahuila.

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** The most recent comprehensive work is that of Olson (1973). Reports of courtship appear in Smith (1946), Minton (1959), Carpenter (1961), and Milstead (1961, 1970). Chaney and Gordon (1954), Milstead (1961), Carpenter (1962, 1967), Hunsaker (1962), Rand (1967), and Purdue and Carpenter (1972a,b) present display and territory data. Notes on reproduction are in Smith (1946), Chaney and Gordon (1954), and Tinkle, Wilbur, and Tilley (1970). Physiological and chromosomal data appear in Guttman (1970) and Hall (1971).

Discussions of habitat are in Burt (1937), Smith (1937, 1946), Schmidt and Smith (1944), Brown (1950), Milstead et al. (1950), Milstead (1953, 1970), Chaney and Gordon (1954), Minton (1959), Axtell (1959), Smith and Milstead (1971), and Olson (1978); biogeographic information in Smith and Buechner (1947), Milstead et al. (1950), Milstead (1953), Minton (1959), Smith et al. (1963), Morafka (1977), and Olson (1978). Chaney and Gordon (1954), and Kennedy (1956) studied food, Bogert (1949), and Minton (1959) gave notes on locomotion and temperature relationships, Chaney and Gordon (1954), and Milstead (1970) discussed defense and escape behavior. Gehlbach and Baker (1962) present information about natural enemies. Burt (1937), Smith (1937, 1938, 1946), Chaney and Gordon (1954), and Axtell (1959) present scutellation data. Etheridge (1964) and Larsen and Tanner (1974) describe skeletal features. Stejneger (1904) and Smith (1934a, 1934b) compare *S. merriami* with other species. Larsen and Tanner (1975) discuss phylogenetic relationships. Catalogues and faunal reports referring to *S. merriami* include: Strecker (1915), Murray (1939), Schmidt and Owens (1944), Jameson and Flury (1949), Milstead (1960), Raun and Gehlbach (1972), and Olson (1978).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The name *merriami* honors C. Hart Merriam; *annulatus* (Latin, ornamented with a ring) refers to the subcaudal bands; *australis* (Latin, southern) indicates the relative geographic position of the subspecies; *longipunctatus* (Latin, long + spotted) suggests the elongate shape of the dorsal spots.

1. *Sceloporus merriami merriami* Stejneger

Sceloporus merriami Stejneger, 1904:17. See species account.
Sceloporus merriami merriami: Smith, 1937:83. First use of trinomial.

• **DEFINITION.** More than 55 dorsal scales; anterior labio-mental wedged between first postmental and infralabials; throat unbarred; no subcaudal bands; paravertebral spots small.

2. *Sceloporus merriami annulatus* Smith

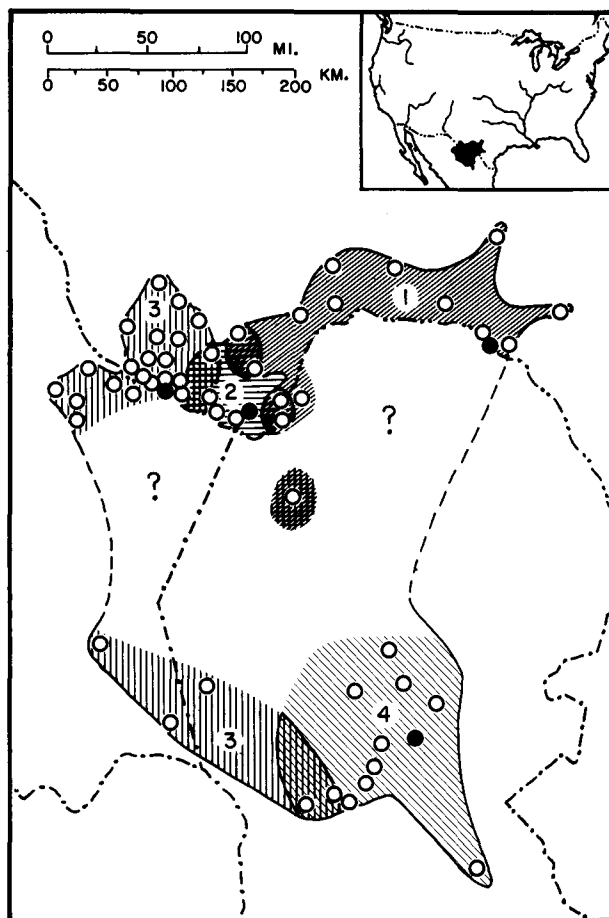
Sceloporus merriami annulatus Smith, 1937:83. Type-locality, "East slope of Chisos Mts., Brewster County, Texas." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. 25058, adult male, collected by E. H. Taylor and J. Wright in August 1931 (examined by author).

• **DEFINITION.** Fewer than 55 dorsal scales; broad, dark subcaudal bands; broad, dark, continuous throat bars; large paravertebral spots; male belly patches usually in medial contact.

3. *Sceloporus merriami longipunctatus* Olson

Sceloporus merriami longipunctatus Olson, 1973:124. Type-locality, "Closed Canyon, 23.0 km SE Redford, Presidio County, Texas." Holotype, U.S. Nat. Mus. 192744, adult male, collected by R. E. Olson on 31 May 1971.

• **DEFINITION.** Fewer than 55 dorsal scales; incomplete subcaudal bands, paravertebral spots with comma-shaped lateral extensions.



MAP. Solid circles mark type-localities, open circles indicate other records. Overlapping shading patterns indicate areas of intergradation.

• **REMARKS.** This subspecies was not reported from Mexico by Olson (1973), but recently it has been collected from extreme northeastern Chihuahua south-southeastward into southwestern Coahuila, where it apparently intergrades with *Sceloporus m. australis* in a zone 50 to 55 km ENE San Pedro de las Colonias.

4. *Sceloporus merriami australis* Williams, Smith and Chrapliwy

Sceloporus merriami australis Williams, Smith, and Chrapliwy, 1960:38. Type-locality, "25.1 km E Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, Mexico." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Nat. Hist. 43319, adult male, collected by P. S. Chrapliwy and K. S. Williams, 9 July 1958 (examined by author).

• **DEFINITION.** Fewer than 49 dorsal scales; subcaudal bands narrow; throat bars narrow; belly patches in males broadly separated.

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